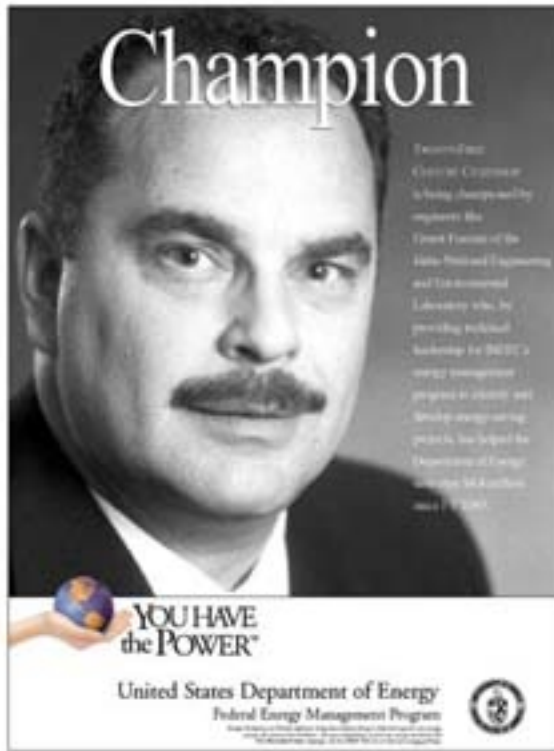


## INEEL 'Champion' conserves millions in energy savings



"Twenty-first century citizenship is being championed by engineers like Ernest Fossum of the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory who, by providing technical leadership for INEEL's energy management program to identify and develop energy-savings projects, has helped the Department of Energy save over \$8.4 million since FY-1985."

So reads the citation given to Fossum Oct. 28 during the 2003 "You Have the Power" award ceremony in Washington, D.C. And, as further tribute for conserving energy over the course of his career, Fossum was proclaimed a "DOE Energy Champion."

When asked what this honor means to him, Fossum replied, "It's a significant honor...especially knowing that the nomination came from the federal program staff in Idaho and Washington, D.C., for whom I have a deep respect. To be recognized by them is really cool. It's the best part of the whole thing."

"What I like most about my job is that co-workers and I think of ways to improve the working environment for all company employees, whether they work on the desert or in town. We overcome the challenge of conserving energy to avoid higher energy costs. And," said Fossum, "what we do in this group matters when you consider that the money saved can be used for other important work that supports the Laboratory."

Fossum highlighted examples of INEEL energy-saving projects made possible with funds from DOE's Energy Management Program. One involved a DOE-HQ alternative financing energy initiative for installing new energy efficient lighting and nine new primary transformers at the INEEL Research Center using an Energy Savings Performance Contract. The improvements save approximately \$100,000 per year.

Another effort involved the installation of automatic lighting controls at the Engineering Research Office Building at a cost of \$25,000 with a simple payback

period of less than two years. Timing office lights to go off at night not only saves money, it tells passersby that the INEEL is energy conscious as well.

Fossum's manager, INEEL Sustainable Buildings and Applied Mechanics Department Manager Cheryl O'Brien, said, "This award is meaningful to us because his DOE customer made the nomination." O'Brien added, "The award is well-deserved since Ernest believes there are better reasons for conserving energy and water than just saving money. To him, it's the right thing to do at home or at work."

Energy Champions constitute a major part of the "You Have the Power" campaign, a new five-year initiative of the Federal Energy Management Program that accelerates energy efficiency within the federal sector. "You Have the Power" honors those workers who have made significant and lasting contributions toward energy savings in federal real estate and facilities.

"You Have the Power" responds to the executive order requiring the federal government to achieve a 30 percent reduction in energy use by the year 2005. The Federal Energy Management Program leads this effort. During the last decade, the program helped federal agencies reduce energy consumption by 11.2 percent - saving the government and taxpayers nearly \$10 billion.

As an "Energy Champion," Fossum is featured on the FEMP Website (<http://www.eren.doe.gov/femp/yhpt>) and posters distributed nationally to U.S. Department of Energy facilities.

The INEEL is a science-based, multiprogram national laboratory dedicated to supporting the U.S. Department of Energy's missions in energy, national security, science and environmental research. The INEEL is operated for the DOE by Bechtel BWXT Idaho, LLC.

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